



State Representative
Dave Upthegrove
33rd Legislative District

*Spotlight on Improving
Our Economy*

2005 End of Year Report

*Serving SeaTac, Des Moines, Normandy Park
and large parts of Kent and Burien.*

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Dear Friends & Neighbors,

My focus as your Representative continues to be on improving our local economy. To do this, I've supported steps to create good paying jobs with benefits, invest in education, and make health care more affordable.

Born and raised right here in South King County, I've watched our community grow and change. Fortunately, most economic indicators are now on the rise in Washington. We're finally headed in the right direction after some difficult times. Job growth in Washington is exceeding the national trends as well as our neighboring states.

Our fiscal responsibility over the past few years, combined with targeted investments in job creation, education and health care are paying off. We kept the Boeing 7E7 in Washington, made progress on education funding, passed positive health care reforms, and moved forward with major transportation improvements.

As we make progress on improving our local economy, I will continue to take an independent balanced approach that puts our community concerns ahead of partisan politics. As always, I welcome your input and suggestions.

All the best,

Dave Upthegrove

Dave Upthegrove

REP. DAVE UPTHEGROVE

Keeping and Creating Good Jobs

We must keep and create good paying manufacturing jobs in the Kent Valley and expand the service industry jobs in the Highline and SeaTac area. A good job keeps families secure and our communities strong. I focused on supporting local programs and initiatives that really work:

- I was able to restore state funding to **Port Jobs**, a non-profit that put over 2,000 people to work in jobs in and around SeaTac Airport.
- I helped secure necessary state matching funds to move forward with development of the **Center for Advanced Manufacturing in Kent**—a public/private initiative to help the local manufacturing sector compete in the global economy—keeping good paying manufacturing jobs in South King County

The Job Development Fund is a new tool we created to help local communities retain and recruit businesses – a top priority of local governments and Economic Development Councils throughout the state. This fund will assist cities, counties, and other local governments build needed infrastructure projects. These projects must meet strict standards for creating family wage jobs, stimulating economic development, and promoting community growth. In Burien, \$2 million from the fund will help build the town square project and bring hundreds of new jobs to the Highline area.



Breaking the Gridlock – in Government and on Our Roads

The number one priority of the state's business community has been to improve our transportation infrastructure. In a bold move, the Legislature passed an historic bipartisan transportation budget to address safety, congestion, local infrastructure and freight mobility issues over the next 16 years. While focused on maintaining and repairing our existing roads and structures (like the viaduct and SR 520), the transportation package will create thousands of direct and indirect jobs. Now you deserve these projects delivered on time and on budget.



Rep. Upthegrove at Miller Creek

“In order to have good jobs and a strong economy, we also need to keep South King County a great place to live. This means protecting our clean air, clean water, parks and open spaces.”

– Rep. Dave Upthegrove



REP. DAVE UP THE GROVE

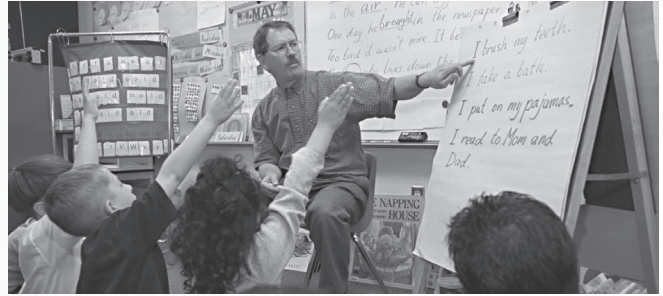
Investing in Education Building more and better schools

The capital budget – the state's construction budget – passed by the Legislature provides more funding for school construction than ever before in the history of the state. As a member of the Capital Budget Committee, I worked hard to deliver results for our community. We will see real improvements in South King County schools.

- In the Highline School District, this budget will provide \$3.7 million additional funding to help pay for the new Mount Rainier High School.
- In the Kent School District, this budget will provide \$1 million in additional funding for Mill Creek Middle School (formerly Kent Jr. High).

The construction budget does not rely on any new taxes, but we will see real results for our local schools. And the good news is that the more support the STATE can provide for school construction, the less our school district has to rely on local property taxes... saving all of us money.

All these great investments in our schools don't just help the future of our economy. They help boost today's economy by creating thousands of good paying construction jobs. The proposed construction budget is estimated to create about 95,000 jobs.



Lowering class sizes – Promoting fair pay for teachers

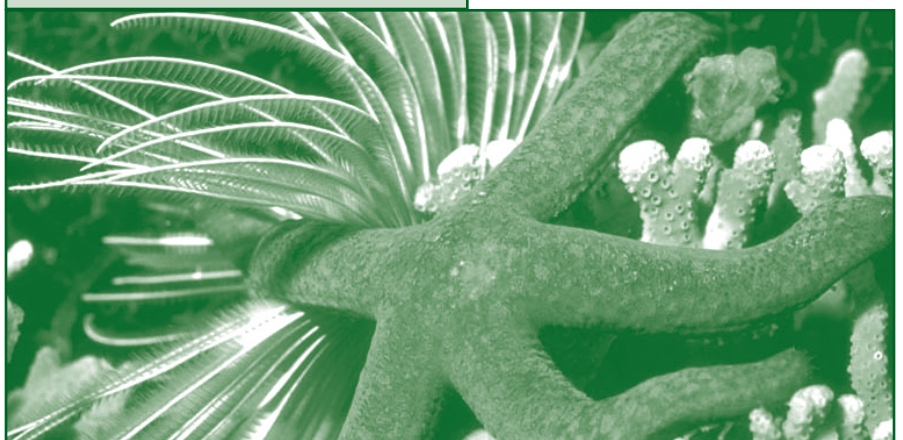
In 2000, voters overwhelmingly approved two education ballot measures. One of these citizen initiatives directed the Legislature to provide annual cost-of-living increases to teachers. The other initiative directed the Legislature to provide funding for smaller

class sizes and other strategies to help kids learn. Neither initiative, however, provided any new funding.

I am pleased that this year the Legislature stepped up to the plate and fully funded the class size reduction initiative out of the newly created Education Legacy Trust, and the teacher cost-of-living initiative from the General Fund. Fully funding these initiatives provides needed resources for our students and delivers on a promise with the people of Washington.

Higher Education

An educated workforce is a must for the emerging economy, but our colleges and universities are bursting at the seams. That is why we made room for 7,900 additional students in our public colleges and universities, and bolstered the State Need Grant program, helping to make college more affordable for more families. Local investments include \$500,000 to Highline Community College for improvements to their marine science and technology facility.



Spotlight on Improving Our Economy

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Making Health Care More Affordable

Health care costs are sky-high and climbing for individuals and businesses. We need to support cost-effective and smart health care solutions. A great example is the **Kent Pediatric Interim Care Center**, which provides care to drug-affected newborns at a fraction of the cost of hospital care—saving millions of dollars. This year, we restored proposed funding cuts to the clinic and secured \$617,000 in capital funds to help build a new facility to serve more babies.

Recognizing that “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure,” the Legislature also took steps to provide health care to all kids and mental health treatment to those in need.

Providing Mental-Health Treatment

An enormous bill so often comes due for citizens — and for society as a whole — whenever a mental illness is untreated. Unfortunately, and many times tragically, people who have mental-health problems often don’t get treatment because their health insurance won’t pay for it.

This session, we changed that. Insurance plans must now provide the same level of coverage for mental-health services as they do for medical and surgical services. After all, paying for mental-health treatment today is a lot less expensive than paying for an emergency room tomorrow — or a prison cell the next day.

Making mental-health parity a part of state law is the right thing to do. And yes, it’s the economical thing to do. More money is spent every year to put people in jails and prisons. But less money is spent to prevent and treat mental-health issues that often lead to illegal activities in the first place. Mental-health problems are more prevalent than cancer or heart disease — and the hospitalization cost is huge.

Providing health care for all Washington kids

Healthy children do better in school and in life, and access to health insurance is vital to helping children stay healthy. Yet the number of uninsured kids in Washington has soared from 50,000 in 2002 to more than 67,000 today.

We must do better, and we will. This year, we established a goal of making sure all children are covered by health insurance by 2011, and we reauthorized the Children’s Health Insurance Program to provide coverage for children from lower-income families who are not eligible for Medicaid.

A number of large, self-insured corporations have already implemented mental-health parity. Many of these companies told us they have actually saved money because the policy cuts absenteeism and increases productivity. The companies have also seen a reduction in their insurance costs.

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